



800 Eighth Street, N.W. Suite 318 Washington, DC 20001 Tel: 202-513-6484 Fax: 202-289-8936

**UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH
CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA**

Institute for Public Affairs

March 9, 2005

STEPHEN J. SAVITSKY
President

Rep. Mike Castle
& House Cosponsors of H.R. 810
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RABBI TZVI H. WEINREB
Executive Vice President

HARVEY BLITZ
Chair, Board of Directors

MARK BANE
Chair, Inst. for Public Affairs

Dear Representatives:

NATHAN J. DIAMENT
Director

We write to you on behalf of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America – the nation's largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization – to express our support for your recent introduction of (H.R.810) the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005.

BETTY EHRENBERG
*Director of International
and Communal Affairs*

The Jewish tradition places great value upon human life and its preservation. The Torah commands us to treat and cure the ill and to defeat disease wherever possible; to do this is to be the Creator's partner in safeguarding the created. The traditional Jewish perspective thus emphasizes that the potential to save and heal human lives is an integral part of valuing human life. Stem cell research may, if properly conducted, serve these noble goals, however, such research must not be pursued indiscriminately.

Your recently introduced legislation strikes this careful balance. By insisting that publicly funded stem cell research be conducted on cells derived from embryos donated to IVF clinics and were in excess of the clinical need of the individuals seeking IVF treatment, and by requiring the prior consultation with and consent of the donors, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act serves to value and venerate the sanctity of life and our responsibilities to our fellow man and woman.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jeffrey Ballabon
Ben Chouake
Benham Dayanim
Howard Friedman
Mandell Ganchrow
Ahuva Genack
Lorraine Hoffman
Steven Laufer
Nathan Lewin
Gary Litke
David Luchins
Louis Malcmacher
Matthew Maryles
Philip E. Milch
Aron Raskas
Howard Rhine
Ben Ringel
Sheldon Rudoff
Richard Stone
Martin Wasserman
Dov Zakheim
**YOUNG LEADERSHIP
REPRESENTATIVES**
Jason Cyrulnik
Yitz Stern
Corey Tarzik

*The Institute for Public Affairs is
the non-partisan public policy
research and advocacy center of
the Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America, the
nation's largest Orthodox Jewish
umbrella organization founded
in 1898.*

*National Headquarters
11 Broadway
New York, NY 10004*



We applaud your efforts and offer our support and assistance to advance this legislation to enactment.

Sincerely,

Tavi H. Weinreb
Rabbi T. Hersh Weinreb

Nathan J. Diament
Nathan J. Diament